

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A method for assembling a blood treatment circuit by aseptically connecting a connected bag set, which has previously been sterilized, and a filter unit, which has previously been sterilized, to each other, said connected bag set being composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a plurality of secondary bags holding blood or blood components and a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bags and a third tube to connect said secondary bags to one another, said filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, and to which a bag is not connected, wherein said method comprises:
 - cutting either said first tube or said third tube so that either said first tube or said third tube comprises first and second cut ends;
 - cutting said second tube so that the second tube comprises first and second cut ends;
 - aseptically connecting said first cut end of said first tube or said third tube to said first cut end of said second tube, and connecting said second cut end of said

first tube or said third tube to said second cut end of said second tube, thereby placing said filter unit along said first tube or said third tube.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for assembling a blood treatment circuit, said method comprising:

sterilizing a connected bag set which is composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a plurality of secondary bags holding blood or blood components, a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bags, and a third tube that connects said secondary bags to one another;

sterilizing a filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, and to which a bag is not connected; and

cutting either said first tube or said third tube so that either said first tube or said third tube comprises first and second cut ends;

cutting said second tube so that the second tube comprises first and second cut ends;

aseptically connecting said first cut end of said first tube or said third tube to said first cut end of said second tube, and aseptically connecting said second cut end of said first tube or said third tube to said second cut end of said second tube, thereby placing said filter unit along said first tube or said third tube.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 3, wherein said first tube or said third tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection to the second tube.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 4, wherein said first tube or said third tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection to the second tube.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 7, wherein said mark indicates the direction of flow of fluid in the tube.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 3, wherein said second tube has a mark indicating that the second tube has been correctly connected to the first tube or the third tube.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 10, wherein said mark is comprised of an expanded outside diameter of the second tube.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 3, wherein said connected bag set and said filter unit are sterilized in different manners or under different conditions.

13. (Original) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 12, wherein said connected bag set is sterilized by moist heat sterilization and said filter unit is sterilized by gas sterilization or radiation sterilization.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 3, wherein
said second tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection to said first tube or the third tube.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 15, wherein said mark indicates the direction of flow of fluid in the tube.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) A blood treatment circuit assembled by aseptically connecting a filter unit to a connected bag set, said connected bag set having previously been sterilized and being composed of a primary bag holding

collected blood and a plurality of secondary bags holding blood or blood components and a first tube to connect said primary bag to said secondary bags and a third tube to connect said secondary bags to one another, said filter unit comprising an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube, both ends of which are connected to said inlet and said outlet, and to which a bag is not connected,

wherein either said first tube or said third tube is aseptically connected to said second tube by using an apparatus for aseptically connecting tubes, and wherein said apparatus for aseptically connecting said first tube or said third tube to said second tube cuts said first tube or said third tube, and said second tube, and then aseptically connects one of said first tube and said third tube, to said second tube at their cut surfaces, such that one of said cut surfaces of said first tube or said third tube facing one direction is connected to one of said cut surfaces of said second tube facing an opposite direction, whereas the other of said cut surfaces of said first tube or said third tube facing said opposite direction is connected to the other of said cut surfaces of said second tube facing said one direction, thereby placing said filter unit along said first tube or said third tube.

Claims 21-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 20, wherein said second tube has a mark that indicates the position of its connection to said first or said third tube.

27. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 26, wherein said mark indicates the direction of flow of fluid in the second tube.

28. (Currently Amended) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 20, wherein said second tube has a mark indicating that the second tube has been correctly connected to the first tube or the third tube.

29. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 28, wherein said mark is comprised of an expanded outside diameter of the second tube.

30. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 20, said filter unit having a by-pass tube that goes around said filter medium.

Claims 31-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) A blood treatment circuit assembled by:
sterilizing a connected bag set composed of a primary bag holding collected blood and a plurality of secondary bags holding blood or blood components, a first tube connecting said primary bag to said secondary bags, and a third tube connecting said secondary bags to one another;

sterilizing a filter unit having an inlet and an outlet, a filter medium to remove specific components from a fluid introduced through said inlet, and a second tube having ends connected to said inlet and said outlet, and to which a bag is not connected;

cutting either said first tube or said third tube so that either said first tube or said third tube comprises first and second cut ends;

cutting said second tube so that the second tube comprises first and second cut ends; and

aseptically connecting said first cut end of said first tube or said third tube to said first cut end of said second tube, and aseptically connecting said second cut end of said first tube or said third tube to said second cut end of said second tube so that the filter unit is positioned along said first tube or said third tube.

35. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 34, wherein said second tube has a mark indicating the position of its connection to said first tube or said third tube.

36. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 35, wherein said mark indicates the direction of flow of fluid in the second tube.

37. (Previously Presented) The blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 34, wherein said second tube has a mark indicating that the second tube has been correctly connected to the first tube or the third tube.

38. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 34, wherein said first tube or said third tube has a mark indicating a position of its connection to said second tube.

39. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 20, wherein the connected bag set is a moist heat sterilized connected bag set, and the filter unit is not a moist heat sterilized filter unit.

40. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 34, wherein the connected bag set is a moist heat sterilized connected bag set, and the filter unit is not a moist heat sterilized filter unit.

41. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 20, wherein the connected bag set is a moist heat sterilized connected bag set, and the filter unit is a gas sterilized filter unit or a radiation sterilized filter unit.

42. (Previously Presented) The method for assembling a blood treatment circuit as defined in Claim 34, wherein the connected bag set is a moist heat sterilized connected bag set, and the filter unit is a gas sterilized filter unit or a radiation sterilized filter unit.